

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 4 and 5, and add Claim 10 to read as follows. Note that all the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently being amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

1. (Currently Amended) A single-crystalline film disposed between a pair of boundaries, said single-crystalline film ~~having comprising~~ a liquid crystal phase ~~at a temperature above the crystal phase and a molecular alignment in the liquid crystal phase which forms a molecular alignment of the single crystalline film in~~ material in a crystal phase, wherein said single-crystalline film exhibits a liquid crystal phase having a uniform molecular alignment at a temperature above the crystal phase.

2. (Previously Presented) The single-crystalline film according to Claim 1, wherein the liquid crystal phase includes a lower order liquid crystal phase and a higher order liquid crystal phase.

3. (Previously Presented) The single-crystalline film according to Claim 1, wherein the liquid crystal phase includes a smectic phase.

4. (Currently Amended) The single-crystalline film according to Claim 3, ~~comprising a smectic wherein the liquid crystal material providing exhibits~~ a uniform molecular alignment in a smectic layer in the smectic phase.

5. (Currently Amended) The single-crystalline film according to Claim 4, wherein the ~~smectic~~ liquid crystal material has a molecular structure which is symmetrical with respect to its molecular long axis.

6. - 9. (Cancelled)

10. (New) The single-crystalline film according to Claim 4, wherein the liquid crystal material has a molecular structure which includes two mutually different terminal groups connected to a mesogen unit and the two terminal groups are directed along an opposite side of the smectic layer in the smectic phase.